In the Claims:

Claims 1-4, 11 and 14 are amended herein.

1. (currently amended) A compressed data processing apparatus into which is input compressed data for which data restoration is performed by carrying out a first part of decompression processing to produce an intermediate data and a second part of decompression processing on the intermediate data to produce a non-compressed data, the compressed data processing apparatus comprising:

a compressed data acquisition unit that acquires a plurality of the compressed data as an object for synthesis;

a plurality of first part decompression processing units that perform the first part of decompression processing with respect to each of the plurality of compressed data acquired by the compressed data acquisition unit to produce a plurality of said intermediate data; and

a synthesis unit that synthesizes **[[a]]** said plurality of intermediate data output by the plurality of first part decompression processing units to produce synthesized intermediate data.

2. (currently amended) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises a second

part decompression processing unit that performs the second part of decompression processing with respect to said synthesized intermediate data output from the synthesis unit.

3. (currently amended) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises a compression processing unit that performs compression processing as inverse transformation of the first part of decompression processing with respect to synthesized intermediate data output from the synthesis unit.

4. (currently amended) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises a weight assignment processing unit that is provided at a stage prior to the synthesis unit and carries out weight assignment processing with respect to the plurality of said intermediate data.

5. (original) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compressed data is compressed audio data.

6. (original) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the compressed data is compressed audio data and the weight assignment processing is volume balance control processing.

7. (previously presented) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compressed data is compressed audio data in MPEG-1 audio format, audio data of each of a plurality of frequency bands is decompressed by the first part of decompression processing, and inverse frequency transformation is performed using the audio data of each of the plurality of frequency bands by the second part of decompression processing.

8. (previously presented) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second part of decompression processing is processing that enables synthesis together of data prior to processing to be equivalent to synthesis together of data after processing, and

the first part of decompression processing is processing that does not enable synthesis together of data prior to processing to be equivalent to synthesis together of data after processing.

9. (previously presented) A compressed data processing apparatus into which is input compressed data for which data restoration is performed by carrying out decompression processing, characterized in that the compressed data processing apparatus comprises a compressed data acquisition unit that

acquires a plurality of the compressed data as an object for synthesis, a synthesis unit that synthesizes the plurality of compressed data acquired by the compressed data acquisition unit, and a decompression processing unit that performs the decompression processing for compressed data that has undergone synthesis that is output from the synthesis unit, said decompression processing unit performing the decompression processing to obtain non-compressed data.

10. (original) The compressed data processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the compressed data is compressed audio data.

11. (currently amended) A compressed data processing method of a compressed data processing apparatus comprising a compressed data acquisition unit that acquires a plurality of compressed data for which data restoration is carried out by performing a first part of decompression processing on said compressed data to produce intermediate data and a second part of decompression processing on said intermediate data, a plurality of first part decompression processing units that perform the first part of decompression processing for each of the plurality of compressed data acquired by the compressed data acquisition unit, and a synthesis unit that synthesizes a plurality of said

intermediate data output by the plurality of first part decompression processing units, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a plurality of compressed data by means of the compressed data acquisition unit;

performing the first part of decompression processing for each of the acquired plurality of compressed data by means of the plurality of first part decompression processing units; and

performing synthesis processing by means of the synthesis unit using a plurality of intermediate data that are obtained upon completion of the first part of decompression processing.

12. (previously presented) The method for processing compressed data according to claim 11, wherein the compressed data processing apparatus has a second part decompression processing unit that performs the second part of decompression processing, and

wherein the method further comprises a step of performing the second part of decompression processing by means of the second part decompression processing unit with respect to intermediate data output from the synthesis unit.

13. (previously presented) The method for processing compressed data according to claim 11, wherein the compressed

data processing apparatus has a compression processing unit that performs compression processing as inverse transformation of the first part of decompression processing, and

wherein the method further comprises a step of performing the compression processing by means of the compression processing unit with respect to intermediate data output from the synthesis unit.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus configured in a computer by implementing a program for processing compressed data, said apparatus comprising:

a compressed data acquisition unit that acquires a plurality of compressed data for which data restoration is performed by carrying out a first part of decompression processing on said plurality of compressed data to produce intermediate data and a second part of decompression processing on said intermediate data;

a plurality of first part decompression processing units that perform the first part of decompression processing for each of the plurality of compressed data acquired by the compressed data acquisition unit to produce said intermediate data; and

a synthesis unit that synthesizes a plurality of said intermediate data output by the plurality of first part

decompression processing units, to synthesize the plurality of compressed data.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a second part decompression processing unit that performs the second part of decompression processing for intermediate data output by the synthesis unit and that outputs synthesized non-compressed data.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a compression processing unit that performs compression processing as inverse transformation of the first part of decompression processing with respect to intermediate data output from the synthesis unit and that outputs synthesized compressed data.